

Tussock Moth B.E. Kotalovich

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE

Region 3

JUL 5 1979

REPLY TO: 3430 Evaluation

SUBJECT: Douglas-fir Tussock Moth - Sandia R.D.

TO: Forest Supervisor, Cibola NF



Douglas-fir tussock moth, Orgyia pseudotsugata (McD.), infestations have caused localized Douglas-fir and white fir defoliation in three canyons on the west slope of the Sandia Mountains since 1976, but larvae densities have remained at low levels on the east slope. We sampled for larvae on the east slope in June, using a sequential sampling that is useful in detecting suboutbreak populations^{1/}, to determine if larvae densities were increasing and defoliation could occur in 1980 or 1981. The purpose of this letter is to document the results of the evaluation.

Eighteen areas were sampled: five along the canoncito trail, five in Cienega Canyon, five in the Capulin area, and three along the crest trail north of the electronic site. A few larvae were found at five locations, but the densities were low and it would be at least 2 years before visible defoliation could result with a maximum population increase. We did not find any larvae on the remaining sites that were sampled. As a result, we do not expect the Douglas-fir tussock moth to cause any defoliation on the east slope of the Sandias in 1980.

The western spruce budworm, Choristoneura occidentalis Free., infestation is continuing on the Sandia Ranger District and defoliation of Douglas-fir and true fir stands is becoming evident. Larvae were abundant in the areas sampled for the tussock moth. We plan to evaluate this infestation later in the summer and a report will be sent to you.

Don Graham

DONALD P. GRAHAM
Director
Forest Insect and Disease Management

cc: Mason, PNW, Corvallis
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RM
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^{1/} Mason, R. R. 1978. Detecting suboutbreak populations of the tussock moth by sequential sampling of early larvae in the lower tree crown. USDA Forest Serv. Res. Pap. PNW-238, 9 pp., illus. Pac. Northwest Forest and Range Exp. Sta., Portland, Oregon.